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# Olympic

## National Forest



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE**

**Pacific Northwest Region**



**September 1953**

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST, lying in a semicircle on Washington's renowned Olympic Peninsula, takes its name from the mountains that climb from the Pacific to form a range of striking appearance and grandeur. These mountains are visible far out to sea and throughout the Puget Sound area.

Mount Olympus, the highest peak in the range, was named by Captain John Mears, an early British navigator. Later the name Olympic was applied to the entire range, the peninsula, and to the national forest. The forest nearly encircles Olympic National Park and is joined on the southwest by the Quinault Indian Reservation.

Olympic Peninsula is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean with its great beaches and colorful coastline. To the north, the Strait of Juan De Fuca separates this westernmost corner of the United States from Canada, providing one of the world's great sealanes with ready access to sheltered harbors.

On the east, unique Hood Canal and historical Puget Sound bound the peninsula. The Olympic Forest is directly adjacent to this expanse of seacoast, adding many special attractions of its own to the area.

### *Maximum Returns*

The Olympic Forest, like the other 152 national forests in the United States, is managed to obtain maximum returns in water, timber, recreation, wildlife, forage, and related uses. Under this multiple-use policy, all the resources of the forest make a combined contribution to the economy and welfare of local communities, the State, and the Nation. A conscious effort is made to manage the resources for the greatest good of the greatest number of people in the long run.

The area in which this 627,839-acre national forest is situated contains some of the most productive timberland in the world. In addition, many fine streams originate in the Olympic Mountains with significant parts of their watersheds located in the national forest. The forest also has special importance as winter range for the famous Olympic elk and other wildlife.

### *Life-Giving Water*

Watershed protection was a primary objective in the establishment of this national forest, since water is a major resource. The forest cover and soil on the slopes of the watersheds must be maintained and protected so that it can absorb and hold back potential flood water, and feed clear, pure water gradually into streams for local domestic and industrial use, and for use far down the valleys of the larger streams. Many rivers have part or all of their watersheds on the Olympic.

The Skokomish River, with miles of excellent fishing water, feeds large Lake Cushman reservoir which is located on its North Fork. Here, more than 124,000 kw. of power is produced at two hydroelectric dams to satisfy the needs of the people of Tacoma.

The Quilcene River is another famous fishing stream that possesses additional water values. Port Townsend has a municipal watershed on the Big Quilcene from which it obtains its city water. In addition, a large pulp mill at Port Townsend is dependent on the watershed for the clean water needed for making raw material into many useful products. The daily flow from this watershed for joint use by the city and the pulp mill is 15 million gallons.

Local communities such as Hoodsport and Quilcene on the Hood Canal also depend on forest streams for their water supplies. To the north, the Dungeness River watershed provides water for the community of Sequim, where rainfall is relatively light. This river also provides irrigation water for more than 3,000 acres of cultivated land.

On the south, the Wishkah River supplies the water for the timber-manufacturing city of Aberdeen. Another well-known stream in this part of the forest, the Hump Tulips, has considerable present as well as potential use.

All along the west side of the peninsula there are streams fed by watersheds either wholly or in part on the Olympic Forest. The Quinault River hesitates momentarily on the southwestern edge of the forest at beautiful Quinault Lake before completing its journey to the coast through the Quinault Indian Reservation. The Queets, Clearwater, and Hoh are other rivers of local importance and great potential use.





F-472126

*Cushman Dam No. 2 on the North Fork of the Skokomish River is one of two dams which together supply 124,000 kw. of power for the city of Tacoma. Water, one of the most important resources of the forest, fills many human needs in addition to sustaining life itself.*

In the northwest corner of the forest the Soleduck and Bogachiel Rivers contribute life-giving water for local communities. The town of Forks depends on Elk Creek, a tributary of the Bogachiel in the national forest, for its municipal water. Both the Soleduck and Bogachiel have possibilities for additional use.

All these streams, plus several others, also provide excellent salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout fishing in season. In addition, they serve as spawning waters that help sustain the commercial fishing industry of the Northwest.

### *The Importance of Timber*

The Olympic is one of the outstanding timber-producing national forests in the United States. Under proper management, the forest can harvest more than 250 million board feet each year, which is enough lumber to build 25,000 five-room houses. This is a major contribution to the economy of the Olympic Peninsula and the Northwest. Principal trees making up this resource wealth are Douglas-fir, western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and western redcedar.

The forest is located in Grays Harbor, Clallam, Jefferson, and Mason Counties, which have a combined population of 106,000. According to economic surveys, this population is 70 percent dependent on forest industries, 12 percent on agriculture, and 18 percent on fishing and minor industries.

In addition to providing raw material for forest industries on the peninsula, which means employment for area residents, the Olympic Forest contributes directly to local governments. Of the money collected from timber sales, grazing, and other uses, 25 percent is returned to Washington State for distribution to the counties in which the forest is located, for the benefit of schools and roads.



F-470655

*Good forest management practices in the Douglas-fir type call for logging relatively small patches of timber in the first cutting. These clear-cut areas will reseed from surrounding trees or be planted with seedlings and allowed to get a good start before the intervening strips of timber are harvested.*

Good management practices require that the forest be restocked in the course of the harvesting operation. Restocking is obtained by both natural reseeding and hand planting. Planting is done annually in areas where immediate establishment of seedlings is necessary to assure continuous growth. This planting, averaging  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million trees a year in the past, is being increased annually to help build the productivity of the forest.



F-428335

*Stockpiling logs in a cold deck at the mill. Sustained-yield management, which provides for harvesting only as much timber as can be replaced by growth, will assure forest products forever.*



## *Forest Products Forever*

One of two especially noteworthy timber-management projects on the forest is the Shelton Cooperative Sustained Yield Unit. Under a law passed by the Congress in 1944, a tract of timber owned by a private logging company has been combined with timberland from the national forest in order that the entire area may be managed on the same sustained-yield basis as all other national forest land. Sustained-yield management provides for balancing growth against drain, which is caused by cutting and losses from fire, insects, and disease, so that forest products can be available forever.

Harvesting and manufacturing 100 million board feet of timber each year provides a firm economic base for Shelton, McCleary, and other nearby communities.

The second project of special note is known as Grays Harbor Federal Sustained Yield Unit. The management plan for this unit provides that the annual cut of some 60 million board feet from a designated part of the forest will be given primary manufacture only in the Grays Harbor area. The purpose of the Federal Sustained Yield Unit is to maintain the stability of Grays Harbor communities.



F-470667

*Picking sword fern for the floral market. Christmas trees, ferns, and plants with medicinal values are among the many minor forest crops that contribute to the livelihood of local people as well as to the industry.*

## *Recreation Is a Resource*

Because recreation is recognized as a major national forest resource, many areas have been developed for public use. The Quinault Lake recreation area, comprising 2,500 acres, provides a beautiful lake in a setting of giant firs and cedars, many of which are 30 feet in circumference at the base and thrust their crowns skyward 200 to 300 feet. Excellent public accommodations can be found at nearby resorts. Free camping and picnicking facilities also are available in the area.

In the vicinity of Hood Canal, on the east side of the forest, one may take an attractive drive to the top of Mt. Walker. From there the impressive view includes snow-capped mountains, cities, and salt-water bays. Along the Hamma Hamma, Duckabush, Dosewallips, and Dungeness Rivers, public camping and picnic facilities have been provided in natural settings with fine fishing in season. Throughout this area there are a number of excellent lodges, motels, and resorts offering public accommodations. Many of these places also serve fine meals featuring the various seafoods and delicacies of the region.



F-470673

*Numerous forest camps have been developed for the comfort and convenience of forest recreationists. Some, such as Willaby Creek forest camp on the shore of beautiful Quinault Lake, have space for parking trailers.*

### *Fish, Fowl, and Fauna*

The Olympic National Forest provides a variety of food and shelter for wildlife, the largest of which are black bear, black-tailed deer, and Olympic elk. At present, the elk population is estimated at 6,000; many of these animals seek the high country in the summer and spend the remainder of the year on lower national-forest or nearby timberland.

As managed timber harvesting is intensified on national-forest and private timberland, there will be an increase in browse and winter forage for elk and deer. Early history of the elk on the peninsula reveals a shortage of winter forage for them in the dense forest areas, which resulted in starvation during severe winters. With the expansion of managed forest operations, additional forage plants appear where the forest is opened up, and elk and deer benefit accordingly.

In addition to big-game animals, beaver, marten, mink, fisher, otter, muskrat, skunk, and raccoon live in the forest. Some of these are, of course, valuable fur bearers. At times beaver construction activities create local problems by flooding roads and culverts. In such cases the animals may be transferred to other locations where conditions are more favorable for them. Other forest inhabitants include song and game birds and predators such as bobcat, coyote, and cougar.

Many fine fishing waters in the forest and favorable populations of resident trout and sea-run salmon and trout offer a variety of sports fishing. Hunting and fishing regulations for the Olympic National Forest are set by the State game department. Sportsmen who wish to hunt or fish on the forest should check the regulations carefully.

### *Fire, the Destroyer*

Fire, the greatest single enemy of the forest, destroys more than the timber resource when it runs wild, and most fires are man caused. Damaged watersheds affect the economy of communities and the lives of the people who depend on streams those watersheds feed. Wildlife suffers too, and sometimes dies. And the beautiful forest and excellent recreation spots are replaced by blackened stumps.



You can help prevent fires by following the few simple but important suggestions here listed:

1. Carry a shovel, ax, and water bucket with each automobile or pack train when planning to camp.
2. Do not smoke while traveling—whether by auto, foot, or on horseback—except while on a surfaced highway.
3. Crush out all cigars, cigarettes, and pipe heels on a rock or in mineral soil. Break matches in two before throwing them away.
4. Before building a campfire, clean an area at least 10 feet in diameter down to mineral soil and build the fire in the center. Keep it small and be extra careful when strong winds or dry east winds occur.
5. Never leave your campfire unattended, even for a few minutes; first, put it out completely with soil and water.
6. Extinguish any uncontrolled fire you find burning, if possible, and then report it to the nearest forest officer. If you cannot put it out, go to the nearest phone; the operator or anyone else you get by ringing will be glad to forward your message to the nearest forest station.
7. Read and observe directions on fire posters.



F-211762

*The Olympic or Roosevelt elk is native to the Olympic Peninsula. It is estimated that there are 6,000 of these animals on the forest.*



F-340400

*Wildlife is one of many national forest resources. This wobbly-legged fawn will one day take his place along with the black bear and Olympic elk as a big-game animal.*

### *What To Do If Lost*

1. Stop and sit down. Keep calm.
2. Clear an area and build a fire. After the fire is going well, cut and place green boughs on it so there will be plenty of smoke. **BE SURE THE FIRE DOES NOT GET AWAY FROM YOU.**
3. Signal by 3 blasts from a whistle, 3 shots from a gun, 3 regulated puffs of smoke, or 3 flashes from a mirror or flashlight. Repeat at regular intervals. When it is recognized by the search party it will be answered by 2 signals. Three signals of any kind is the nation-wide SOS call in the mountains. Use it only when actually in need of help.
4. Stay where you are until help arrives.



## *Take Care of Your Forest Land*

1. Leave a clean camp. Burn as much of your garbage, especially fish heads and cleanings, as you can. Place the rest in garbage cans or pits. If no cans or pits are available near your camp, bury all garbage and refuse. Don't scatter straw around.
2. Keep water supplies unpolluted. In addition to properly disposing of refuse, wash clothing away from springs, streams, and lakes.
3. Cooperate in preserving forest signs. They are posted for your information.
4. Observe State fish and game laws.
5. Cooperate with forest officers.

### *Administration*

Headquarters of the forest supervisor and his staff are located in Olympia. For practical administration, the forest is divided into four units, each under the yearlong supervision of a district ranger. During summer months many local residents are employed for forest protection, trail and road maintenance, logging slash disposal, reforestation, and other seasonal work essential to good forest management. Ranger stations are located at Quinalt, Shelton, Quilcene, and Snider, 38 miles west of Port Angeles.

Further information about the Olympic National Forest can be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, P. O. Box 187, Olympia, Wash. For information about other national forests in Oregon and Washington, write the Regional Forester, P. O. Box 4137, Portland 8, Oreg.



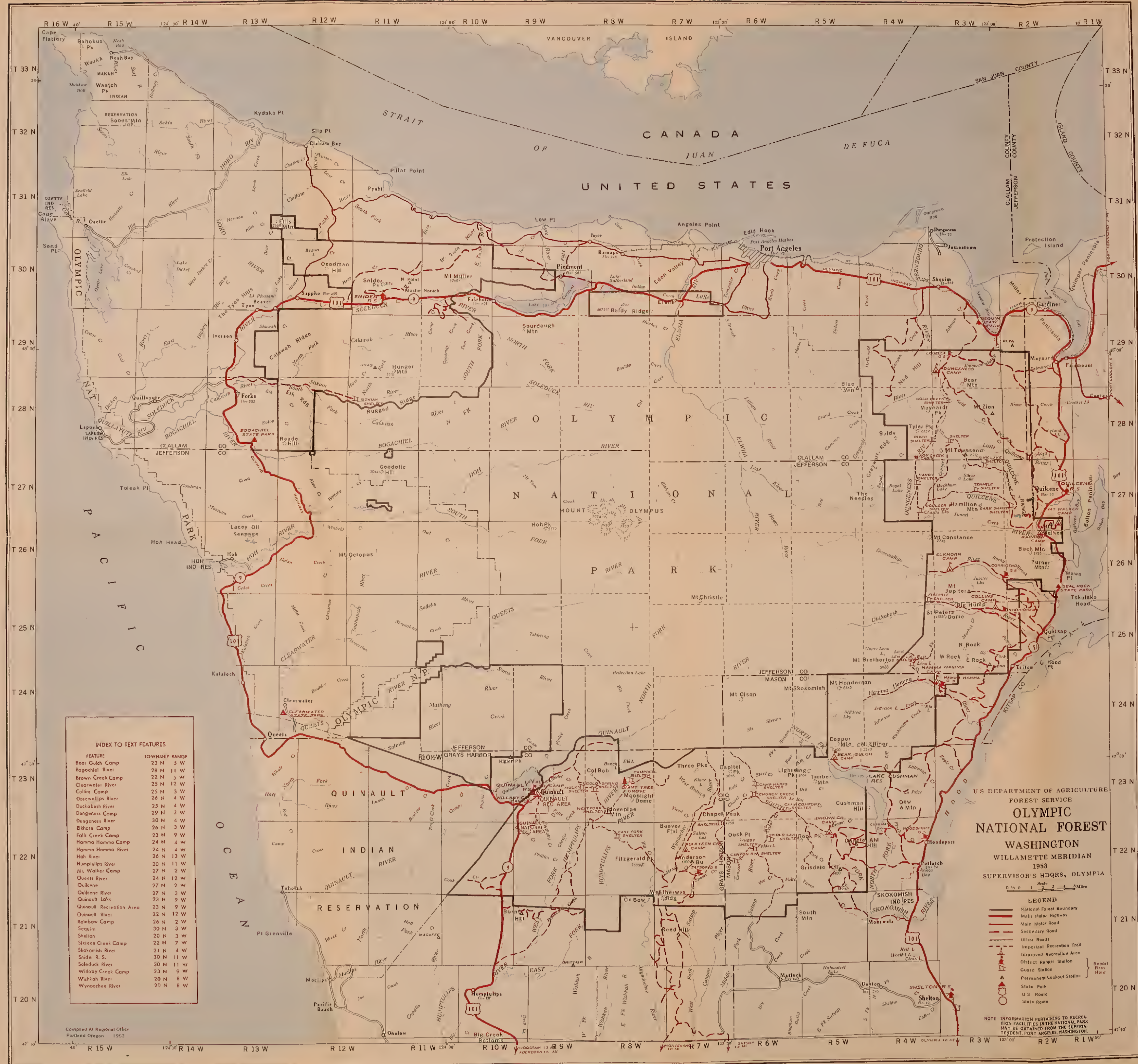
F-470662

*Fishing is fun regardless of age agrees this young sportsman on the Soleduck River. Bag limits and regulations are set by the State game department.*









Improved Campgrounds in the Olympic National Forest

- Bear Gulch.**—On Lake Cushman forest road 15 miles west of Hoodport. Tables and sanitation facilities. Water obtained from stream. Supplies at Hoodport.
- Brown Creek.**—On forest road 7½ miles from Cushman Dam. Tables and sanitation facilities. Water obtained from stream. Space for one trailer. Supplies at Brinnon, 5 miles.
- Collins.**—On Duckabush River forest road 5 miles west from Olympic Highway. Tables, fireplaces, and sanitation facilities. Water obtained from stream. Supplies at Brinnon, 5 miles.
- 16 Creek.**—On Wynoochee River forest road above Grisdale logging community. Tables and fireplaces. Water obtained from stream.
- Dungeness.**—On Louella road 13 miles south of Sequim. Tables, fireplaces, sanitation facilities, and community kitchen. Water obtained from stream. Supplies at Sequim.
- Elkhorn.**—On Dosewallips River road 11 miles from Olympic Highway. Tables, fireplaces, and sanitation facilities. Water obtained from stream. Room for one trailer. Supplies at Brinnon.
- Hamma Hamma.**—On Hamma Hamma forest road 6 miles from Olympic Highway. Tables, fireplaces, and sanitation facilities. Water obtained from stream. Supplies at Eldon, 7 miles.
- Mt. Walker Summit.**—On forest road 5 miles from Olympic Highway. Tables, fireplaces, and sanitation facilities. No water. Supplies at Quilcene, 10 miles. Exceptional views of Puget Sound and Olympic Mountains. Forest Service lookout at summit.
- Quinalt Lake.**—Two campgrounds, Willaby Creek and Falls Creek, situated about 1 mile apart on the lakeshore. Special fishing license for Quinalt Lake and supplies at general store, Quinalt. Tables, fireplaces, sanitation facilities and stream water at Willaby Creek. Tables, fireplaces, community kitchen, and piped water at Falls Creek. There is space for trailers at both campgrounds.
- Rainbow.**—On Olympic Highway 5 miles south of Quilcene. Piped water and community kitchen. Sanitation facilities. Supplies at Quilcene. Mt. Walker scenic drive begins 1,000 feet away.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
**OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST**  
WASHINGTON  
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SUPERVISOR'S HQRS, OLYMPIA

- LEGEND**
- National Forest Boundary
  - Main Road
  - Main Water Road
  - Secondary Road
  - Other Roads
  - Important Recreation Trail
  - Improved Recreation Area
  - District Ranger Station
  - Guard Station
  - Permanent Lookout Station
  - State Park
  - U.S. Route
  - State Route

NOTE: INFORMATION PERTAINING TO RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE NATIONAL PARK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT, PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON.

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Dosewallips River	26 N 4 W
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Dungeness River	30 N 4 W
Elkhorn Camp	26 N 3 W
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